

Appl. No. : 10/789,629
Filed : February 27, 2004

REMARKS

A. Introduction

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application. Claims 2-27 are pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 20-27 are allowed. Claims 2, 4-7, 11, 13 and 15-17 have been rewritten to be allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Claims 3, 8-10, 12, 14, 18 and 19, dependent upon allowable claims, should also be allowable. Applicant has amended Claims 2-5, 8, 11-15 and 17-19. Applicant's claim amendments and claim additions are shown on the pages above following the heading AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS. On these pages, the [[deletions are double bracketed]] while the insertions are underlined.

Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, and Applicant earnestly requests such action. Below, Applicant addresses each of the Examiner's reasons for rejection.

B. All Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Fuller

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 8-10, 12, 14, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,143,200 to Fuller. While Applicant respectfully disagrees that these claims are not allowable over Fuller, Applicant does not wish to delay any further the issuance of the allowed claims. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled Claim 1 without prejudice. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue this and other similar claims in continuing applications. Applicant has also amended the remaining listed claims to make each one dependent upon another claim that the Examiner has already indicated to be allowable. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue these and other similar claims in continuing applications.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. If there is any further hindrance to allowance of the pending claims, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

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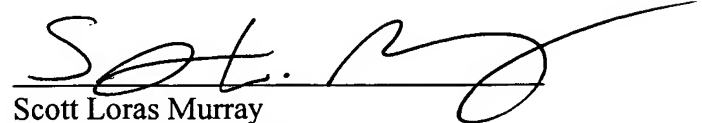
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2-24-05

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